

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00420 220721Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----220722Z 034988 /17

R 220645Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8807
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 420

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, IS, JO
SUBJECT: ISRAELI ENCROACHMENT IN WADI ARABA AREA SOUTH OF
DEAD SEA

1. DURING COURSE OF RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH JERUSALEM-BASED
UN PERSONNEL WE HAVE LEARNED THAT JORDANIAN MILITARY HAVE RAISED
RECENTLY WITH IDF THROUGH UN THE ISSUE OF ISRAELI ENCROACHMENT
EAST OF ISRAELI-JORDANIAN CEASE-FIRE LINE ALONG WADI ARABA.
THIS ENCROACHMENT EXTENDS ABOUT 80 KILOMETERS NORTH TO SOUTH
AND IN SOME PLACES IS AS DEEP AS 8 KILOMETERS EAST OF
ARMISTIC LINE.

2. ACCORDING TO UN THIS SIUTATION HAS EXISTED SINCE 1967 AND
WAS BROUGHT TO LIGHT RECENTLY AS RESULT OF JORDANIAN CONSTRUC-
TION OF ES-SAFI TO AQABA ROAD WHICH ENCOUNTERED ISRAELI FENCE
ASTRIDE PLANNED ROADWAY AT CERTAIN POINTS. ISRAELIS SUBSEQUENTLY
WITHDREW FENCE SOMEWHAT WESTWARD AT CERTAIN POINTS
TO PERMIT JORDANIAN ROAD CONSTRUCTION BUT STILL OCCUPY LARGE
AREAS OF TERRITORY EAST OF CEASE-FIRE LINE, HAVE CONSTRUCTED
ROAD PARALLEL TO FENCE AND IN SOME PLACES HAVE BEGUN TO CULTIVATE
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LAND WITHIN AREA OF ENCROACHMENT AND HAVE CONSTRUCTED CISTERNS.

3. JORDANIAN MILITARY HAVE ASKED UN IN WRITING TO RAISE
MATTER WITH IDF AND SEEK ISRAELI PULL-BACK TO CEASE-FIRE LINE.
ALTHOUGH UN HAS INFORMALLY PUT JORDANIAN COMPLAINT TO IDF
THEY ARE NOT HOPEFUL THAT ISRAELIS WILL WITHDRAW. UNTSO HAS NO
FORMAL STANDING WITH GOI ON THIS ISSUE AS ISRAELIS NO LONGER

RECOGNIZE STATUS OF ISRAELI-JORDANIAN MIXED ARMISTICE COMMISSION.
HOWEVER, BOTH ISRAEL AND JORDAN ON OCCASION USE UN MACHINERY
TO ARRANGE MEETINGS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

4. WE HAVE OBTAINED MAP SHOWING ISRAELI FENCE, ROAD,
CISTERNS AND AGRICULTURAL PLOTS PREPARED BY UN.
COPIES SENT NEA, AND EMBASSIES AMMAN AND TEL AVIV.
NEWLIN

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